pennsylvania musician

magazine

Vol.42 #495 Jan 2025

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6-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
7-Open Mic Night 6pm till 9pm
8-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
9-Music Bingo 6:30pm till 8:30pm
10-Heads or Tails Experience 8pm till 11pm
11-Gun Metal Gray 8pm till 11pm
12-Line Dancing 6pm till 9pm
13-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
14-Ed Varner 6pm till 8pm
15-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
16-Golden Singles Night 6pm till 9pm
17-Laura Laughman 8pm till 11pm
18-Dance Fever 8pm till 11pm
20-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
21-Live Acoustic Music 6pm till 8pm
22-Karaoke 6pm till 9pm
23-Shine Through the Shade 6pm till 9pm
24-Vivid Vinyl 8pm till 11pm
25-Darkside on Tap 8pm till 11pm
26-Colby Dove 11am till 1pm
27-Trivia 6:30pm till 8:30pm
28-Justin Murphy 6pm till 8pm
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pennsylvania musician magazine

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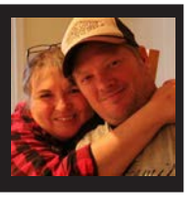
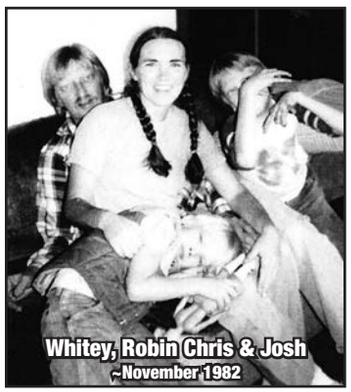
EDITOR RAMBLINGS
By Josh Noll



Welcome to 2025 and another issue of PA Musician Magazine. It's hard to believe we made it to "The Future" what an amazing time to be alive. When the paper started in 1982 we didn't even have a computer. The process involved typewriters, scissors, wax rollers, developing photos and lots and lots of paper, before we even made it to press. Then physically cutting and pasting each individual paragraph and photo onto large sheets of paper, with the most care and accuracy. After the pages were all finished it was carefully transported to the press, where we would wait hours and hours for the paper to roll off of the giant machine. CA CHUNK CA CHUNK CA CHUNK, as each paper rolled off the press and through the folding process, followed by the evil bundle strap machine, that with one error could take off a finger or shut down the whole works for hours if not done correctly.

The whole process relied on each step and if one error occurred all Mayhem would break loose and typically did. These are the memories of my childhood. Somehow my parents always made it happen. Snow storms, blown motors (oops), broken presses, health issues, somehow the paper always comes first. When you take this on, your month to month, revolves around the paper. There is no where else you can be, there is no other day you can complete your task, you are bound by the monthly deadline. Heading into 2025 and 7 years since taking over the paper, I still feel like a newb. My hats off to my mother, Robin Noll, Who somehow has been at this for over 42 years. She started with a typewriter, scissors and my dad's dream to provide for his family. when we got our first computer, a new thing called an Apple Macintosh, She didn't go to training on how to be a computer wiz.



Whitey, Robin Chris & Josh
~November 1982

Kix, John Harris, Whitey Noll at Metron

She fumbled through and with the help from people like Charlie Hood and Bobby Kutz she learned how to adjust to the new era. The rule back then was "DO NOT TOUCH THE COMPUTER". It is not for "GAMES". When it crashed it was like the stars were falling into computer space. Our family relied on that little Macintosh and our mother, month after month, to successfully complete the task and she always does. LOVE YOU MOM!

Now days the process is much easier we still deal with computer crashes, acts of nature, car repairs, life in general but technology has changed the way we do things. With the introduction of AI based software it's hard to see where the future will take us and how it will change music as we know it. Will we continue to do our own thinking and creating or will we let the computer streamline our process so we can spend more time on our computers doing computer things. UGH seems like a wormhole or something from a bad Keanu movie. Let's keep our music organic and let the computers for computing. No one wants the same sounds or progressions spewing from some AI based terminal. If you can use it to help unlock your mind so be it, but don't let it take over your mind and become your thoughts. It's a powerful tool and only the future will tell what the next generation will do with it.

As we roll into the future, start the new year out right and get out and see some live music. Lots of options for local live music and rumors have it, that there will be some new "venue revamps" coming to our area focusing on live music, so stay tune for more details. 2025 and still alive! If you'd like to part of "The Future" of PA Musician Magazine and wonder how we can help promote you, your event or band. give me a call or a text 717-636-4203 or send me an email: nollzman240z@aol.com We would love to hear from you. *[we need the ad dollars to survive—Robin]* See you next month!

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1.9 Liquid Noise 7-9 pm
1.11 Flinchy's 8-11 pm
1.17 Wolf Brewing 6:30-9:30 pm
1.18 Doyle Hotel 8-11 pm
1.24 Fratelli's Towne Tavern 7-10 pm

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Happy New Year!! The first article of 2025. 2024 was a year full of many ups, downs, and all arounds, but I'm so glad I always had music to rely on. Thank you so much to an amazing year of way too many performances to count. Thanks to all of you performing your hearts out, I've made so many friends, and I've also had the opportunity to hear some really amazing music! Thanks also to all of the venues for hosting live music, and all of their staff for being patient with all of our shenanigans! I definitely finished off the year with a bang!

It all started many Fridays ago at Hook & Flask for Matt Jameson. This visit he also had TJ Frengel jamming with him on bass. Matt has had the amazing opportunity to jam with quite a few musicians this year. It's awesome watching musicians collaborate together, sharing the stage, and just letting the music flow. It was also Mark Farrell's birthday, so the crowd was out in force to party the night away! The next night also started with Matt Jameson at Stoney Creek. The tables were all reserved and no one was budging, because everyone stuck around to enjoy the show. It's awesome to see reserved on so many tables when he first gets to his shows to set up, and then watching the room get filled with friends, family, and fans before the show starts! We've definitely learned our lesson, if you want to enjoy the show, no matter where it's at, it's best to snag reservations!

After Matt's show, Cindy and I zoomed over to Flinchy's for Dan Mowery's solo performance. Dan regularly performs as part of the Exactly's. I've heard their music online, but unfortunately still haven't gotten a chance to see them live! One of these days! Dan put on a great show and had the whole bar singing along when we got there for the last set of the night!

On a Sunday afternoon I had a few minutes to bop over for the first set of Crash & Cross at SpringGate. Per request I was able to see Crasher pick up his guitar and play a few songs before I had to go. I'm happy that Crasher found a new duo partner, and can continue on his musical journey. Crash & Cross have really been getting some great shows under their belts, and loving every minute of every show! I love to see so many people out supporting these guys! SpringGate recently got some new owners, they will soon be switching the name to Royal Winery, but will hopefully continue to support live music!

On a Wednesday, delivery day, I came across Shine Delphi at Flinchy's. Shine is such a unique musician in our area. His guitar skills and voice are so much fun to watch and hear! This night he also had some guys at the bar begging to let their friend sing a song, Shine obliged, and we were all blown away by the guest performer! They were also super nice to Shine and gave him a nice tip in exchange! They hung their 20s out on his mic stand like they were doing laundry! It was a win-win, good music and good money! It was also awesome to see how excited some musicians were for the new issue of the PA Musician Magazine, they actually pulled out their flashlights so they could read the mag in the bar! Thanks guys for the support!

Crash & Cross

Friday night kicked off with Matt Jameson at Wolf's Brewing. Holly found Matt a perfect Merch Case, so now at most shows he will have shirts, necklaces, koozies, and any other fun merch he's got going on at his shows. One of the best ways to support any musician is to buy their merch, their music, or whatever they have to offer!

After Matt's show we zoomed down to the Horn Pub for Hank the Buffalo. I love that Horn Pub doesn't only host live music, but they also fully support it. The owners were there once again rockin out and having a good time with Hank the Buffalo. Even the kitchen staff couldn't resist and they were sneaking out of the kitchen to enjoy the show! I had so much fun at the Horn Pub, that I also went the next day to see these guys at Copper Pub! All of us ladies have too much fun dancing, singing, and just hanging with Hank!

Since the Copper Pub is an early show we had time to run out Hollywood Penn National in Grantville for their tribute band, Slippery When Wet. Do you know that Grantville has an amazing tribute band EVERY first Saturday! Sat. January 4th will be Nicks in Time, a local favorite!

On a Tuesday night we zoomed up to Shermans Creek Inn for their new acoustic night with Matt Jameson! It's also family dinner night where kids under 12 eat free with a paying adult, so the place was packed! Music was a special touch and people seemed to really enjoy the show. It was packed all night long.

On a Thursday night, I stopped in at Wild Rabbit for some Joey Dalto. It has been a super long time since I got the chance to hear him perform. Joey puts on a great solo show. I love hearing

continued on next page...

STEEL
TOUR SCHEDULE
1/11 Bourbon Tavern, Freeland MD 7pm
1/25 Fireside Lounge, Hagerstown MD 7pm
2/1 XL LIVE w/Crazy Train, Harrisburg PA 8pm
3/1 Carroll Coon Club, Hampstead MD 8:30pm
3/29 Redman Tribe 84, Williamsport MD 8pm
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MATT
JAMESON
LIVE
Fri. 1/3 - Flinchy's, Camp Hill, 8-11pm
Sun. 1/5 - Wolf Brewing, Mech, 11am-2pm
Fri. 1/10 - McSherrystown Moose, 6-9pm
Sat. 1/11 - Horn Pub, Lewisberry, 8-11pm
Fri. 1/17 - Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel, 6-9pm
Sat. 1/18 - Stoney Creek, Dauphin, 7-9pm
Sun. 1/19 - Gather the Guitars Benefit,
Abbey Bar, Harrisburg, 3-6:30pm
Tues. 1/21 - Falls Crab Shack, York Haven, 6-8
Fri. 1/24 - Hook & Flask, Carlisle, PA, 7-10pm
Sat. 1/25 - Back Porch Brewing, Carlisle, 7-10p
Fri. 1/31 - Antietam Brewing, Hagerstown, 6-9
MATTJAMESONLIVE@GMAIL.COM

his original music. It was a great place to stop for delicious pizza and marvelous music!

Friday night fun started early with Megan and Dave at Liquid Noise. Megan and Dave have really expanded their set and play over 7 decades of music. They have a little bit of something for everyone, with multiple genres! I love seeing Megan pick up her guitar and play along too! So super awesome!!

After part of their show we headed out to Hollywood Casino in Grantville to see Hank the Buffalo's debut performance at the Penn Draft House. This small stage is in the food court area of the casino. It's a nice spot for people to grab a bite and listen to some good music. Then we headed over to the H-Lounge stage for Turning the Tide. They are a super fun party, dance band that I've heard a lot about, and I'm glad I finally got a chance to check them out.

On a chilly Saturday Cindy and I headed into Linglestown for their Christkindlmarkt. The whole main road was shut down and the street was filled with vendors. One of those vendors was Jen Auxt with her Bristle & Board stuff. She's so talented and came up with great gift ideas. She was BUSY. They also had live music, we were able to hear Amber Nadine and Steve Mazur's Duo, The Strange Agents. It was so cold Steve's mustache was freezing, but he still put on a great show and danced a jig while he played some crowd favorites!

Next we went to SpringGate for Rocky Allen. Rocky Allen is an awesome country musician. He has some really amazing originals, his most recent one is called "Land of the Free," check it out on all streaming platforms. While we were there I even got the chance to hear him play some Lee Brice.

The 2nd half of the day started with Roger Bowyer at Copper Pub. Hearing him jam out to everything from Prince to Garth Brooks is nothing short of awesome! After his show we still had time to zoom over to The DogHouse for All About Chuck (Britton) and his partner for the night, Chris Zimmerman. There were multiple birthdays being celebrated so people were dancing and having a great time!

Sunday was the annual Joy to the Burg show. This year they had so many great songs, it was a 2 disc masterpiece! A bunch of local artists submit songs and the CD is created to be sold to raise money for Harrisburg's homeless. Christian Churches United works together to create shelters for those in need during the Winter through their outreach program. We were able to see performances by Holly Serio, Gr8 EFX, Antonia Andrade, No Last Call, the Starving Musicians, and the Groove Rebels. All performances were awesome as usual, and it's so awesome to see so many local musicians working together on this project.

On a Tuesday night we headed up to The Doyle for their Open Mic night, hosted by Nick Turk. It was awesome to not only see so many musicians show up, but also people like me, that were there just to enjoy the music. I heard awesome performances by Derek Avalon, Nick Turk, Wayne Lesher, Stephen Robert, Russell, and more! It's so cool to hear so many people share their talents!

I had another rash of our local acoustic guys all over again.. But finally on a Saturday night, it was a FULL band night! I saw a plugged in Six Bar Break at The DogHouse! So glad I finally got to catch back up with these guys. They are constantly creating new original songs and content, all of which continually amaze me. It's hard to believe they've been jamming for 10 years! It's also crazy to think the first place I saw them was at Zipper's, which was my good friend Scott Troup's old bar, during Gettysburg Rocks. 10 years of content on all of their streaming platforms. Check them out, and support local music, I'm sure you will be glad that you did!

Up next, another full rockin' band, Back in Black at XL Live. I absolutely love these guys and was so happy to be in town for this special Christmas show. This year marks 30 years since their first show in Harrisburg. John Harris called them to fill in at the Metron, and they jumped on the opportunity. XL was packed! I'm obviously not the only person that loves these guys. I squeezed

continued on next page...

myself to the front and of course found, Mike Benedict, jamming front and center. He let me squeeze in with him so I could get up close and personal with the band, and we had a rockin' good time all night long!

Derek Avalon & Friends

The Thursday after Christmas was a night of magic! I had a full day at Point Pleasant, NJ looking for treasures, but made it back in time to go to Sturges Speakeasy for Derek Avalon. It was the perfect night for a show because no one else had one, and all of the local musicians were out in full force to support Derek at his show. Derek's biggest problem was letting everyone get a chance on stage for a couple of songs. You can check out all of the details on my Facebook page, but it was one heck of a party! I'm so happy that this all lined up the way it did. We all had a fantastic time, there's nothing quite as amazing as seeing the whole music community come together for just a night of fun, shenanigans, and a lot of great music!

Cindy and I recently found out that sometimes it's fun to keep the party bus moving and grooving.. That also means we see a ton of music in one night! This night started at The Wharf for Crash & Cross. The Wharf closes in their deck for the winter, and they really have a great area for music all year long! Then we bopped to The Beerded Goat for Shine Thru the Shade. With so many families out and about during the holidays, Shine Thru the Shide were on their best behavior. I never knew they could be so calm, but they still had a great set. I'm sure things got a little rowdier after the families left. Then I HAD to go to Big Bottom Brewery to say "See Ya Later", to my good

continued on next page...

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LIVE MUSIC FRIDAYS 7-10 PM SATURDAYS 8:30-11:30PM
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1/4 Sat. Pawn Shop Bound 8:30-11:30
1/10 Fri. Jesse Wade
1/11 Sat. The Boys Upstairs 8:30-11:30
1/17 Fri. Jeff McGaw
1/18 Sat. Vertigo Vulture Trio 8:30-11:30
1/24 Fri. Fred Nebula
1/25 Sat. Lush Button 8:30-11:30
1/31 Fri. One
2/1 Sat. The Blue Cadillacs 8-11
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CHEATERS NEVER PROSPER TRIVIA
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Saturday, Jan. 4th 6-9pm EVERSTORM
Friday, Jan. 10th 6-9pm KENNY SHADLE
Saturday, Jan. 11th 6-9pm KEITH & SONYA
Friday, Jan 17th 6-9pm MATT JAMESON
Saturday, Jan. 18th 6-9pm COLTON MILLER
6-9pm Friday, Jan 24th CODY WILEY
Saturday, Jan. 25th 6-9pm TRAVIS MOHN
6-9pm Friday, Jan. 31st ZACH KING
6-9pm Saturday, Feb. 1st DEREK HENRY
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Out & About continued...

friends Sammy, of the Vertigo Vultures and his wife Muff. Sammy is finally getting his turn to retire to Florida. I know the last 13 months have been tough on these two lovebirds, but they are finally back together and ready to enjoy retirement. With Dougie living close to Sammy, I'm sure there will be some jam sessions in the very near future! We all know I love Florida, so now I just have another place to visit! After hugs, it was time for us to move on to Sierra Madre for the final few songs of Jason Carst. I'm so glad they are having music regularly again at Sierra Madre! When we walked in there was a whole table of people who recognized Cindy and I as the crazy, dancing ladies! HA! We sure are!! And Proud of it! Our final stop was at Flinchy's for Erick Moyer. He had the bar packed and the crowd singing along. It was an amazing night of music, so much fun, that we did it all again the next night!

Back In Black at XL Live

Six Bar Break

Saturday night we started with a trip out to the Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel for Roger Bowyer again. Thanks to some obscure requests we heard Roger cover "Beth" by Kiss!! And he gave me a teaser of "All Along the Watchtower".. Hopefully next time! HA! Then after a set we zoomed to Hollywood to catch the first set of Smooth Like Clyde. Hollywood's dance floor and beyond were jam packed with people dancing! Then we bopped over to Penn Draft to hang with Shine Delphi for a little white before we once again ended the night with Crash and Cross at Flinchy's. Crash had his Cheer Tyme "kids" there supporting him which is awesome. I'm sure it's hard for him to believe some of his "kids" are old enough to drink! They were definitely all there supporting him, singing along, and requesting songs! The last two nights out were a blur this month, but it's so hard to just pick one or two places when there are so many options to choose from!

Thank you all once again for your amazing support! Not only Out & About by reading my article month after month, but also supporting me through my husband's recent cancer diagnosis. It was super scary, and I'm glad I could lean on my friends! Kris turns 50 on January 8th this month! I'm sure we will be celebrating one of these days! My big sister Andrea Greene also turns 50! Big birthdays for some of the people I love the MOST!

I hope you all have a super fabulous, new year!! I hope to see you Out & About, supporting or being live music!! Don't forget turn the page and make your plans for your next night out on the town...see ya in 2025!

photos by Rachel Rocks

Starving Musicians

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JULIE SCHREIBER, ERIC WIRSING, & FFEJ HERB OF SOLAR FEDERATION

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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Winter is in full swing but Harrisburg continues to bring noteworthy shows this past month. The Martin Bros, The Jellybricks and Jet Silver all played together at the Village in Lancaster on November 27th. A great night from all three bands who have been a huge part of the Central PA music scene for nearly 30 years. Anthrophobia visited Harrisburg's HMAC on December 6th as part of the Toys For Tots Fundraiser. The benefit show also featured Defiant, Atlas at Hold, The Galaxy Has Eyes and Seglock. Anthrophobia hail from Reading, PA and recently released their new album "Going Out Swinging" on November 22nd. Junk Punk (featured on the cover of this issue) also returned to Central PA with an intimate show at downtown Harrisburg's Lovedrafts on Deember 7th. Junk Punk has many shows in the works for 2025, plus a debut album releasing at the end of March. The legendary Marky Ramone of the Ramones played Mechanicsburg's JB Lovedrafts on December 15th. The 72-year old drummer played to a packed house with over 40 Ramones classic songs including "Beat on the Brat," "Blitzkrieg Bop" and "Labotomy." Marky replaced original drummer, Tommy Ramone, in 1978 and was in the band most of their career until disbanding in 1996. Joey Dalto of Swisher Sweets, played a solo show on December 20th at Beerded Goat Brewery where he played great cover songs and original songs from his full length-album 'All For You' released in 2020.

This past year the music industry witnessed history. The two top tours of all time – one by gross and the other by tickets sold – were out on the road simultaneously. Taylor Swift's "The Eras Tour" smashed the all-time touring record with an estimated $2.2 billion gross. At the same time, Coldplay's "Music of the Spheres World Tour" sold over 10.3 million tickets— the most ever by any artist in the history of live. The run also grossed over $1.14 billion thus far and is the second highest grossing tour of all-time— and they still have 48 more shows slated for 2025. Swift, 34, performed a total of 149 shows across 51 stadiums in 21 months across five continents for the greatest tour of all time. The U.S. Travel Association said Swift's "total economic impact likely exceeded $10 billion," for all the cities she played. Her fans travel to major cities creating revenue spent on accommodation, food and beverage, retail and transportation.

AC/DC are set to make their return to the United States for the first time in nine years with their "Power Up" tour next spring. Brian Johnson returns as the band's frontman and vocalist, with Angus Young on lead guitar, Stevie Young as rhythm guitar, Matt Laug on drums and Chris Chaney on bass. AC/DC will land at 13 stadiums, including Pittsburgh's Acrisure Stadium on May 8th and Landover, MD Northwest Stadium on May 12th. They toured stadiums throughout Europe last summer with their last concert taking place on August 17th at Croke Park Stadium in Dublin, which sold out with 82,298 tickets grossing a total $14.3 million. Def Leppard, Nickelback, Mötley Crüe, and Shinedown are set to headline the inaugural Boardwalk Rock festival, in Ocean City, Maryland, May 17th-18th. The two-day lineup debuts with more than 25 art-

continued on next page...

Marky Ramone

ists across three stages on the shores of Ocean City Inlet Beach. Bret Michaels, Halestorm, Fuel, Three Days Grace, Alice Cooper, 3 Doors Down, Bush, Chevelle, Flyleaf with Lacey Sturm and more are also set to play, and fans will also have free access to the Iconic Jolly Roger at the Pier amusement park located inside festival grounds.

Guns N' Roses are returning to the road in 2025 to play a European and Middle East tour dubbed "Because What You Want, What You Get Are Two Completely Different Things," headlining stadiums and festivals throughout the summer. Special guests on the tour include Public Enemy, Rival Sons, and Sex Pistols featuring, Frank Carter on select dates. The 24-date run will see the LA legends perform in Saudi Arabia, Georgia, Lithuania, and Luxembourg for the first time. The grand finale of the tour will take place in Germany's metal mecca Wacken, where Guns 'N' Roses will headline the festival for the first time in history. System Of A Down announced six stadium dates with special guests Deftones, Avenged Sevenfold and Korn. Polyphia and Wisp will open for all shows, with Korn joining the band in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on August 27th and 28th, Avenged Sevenfold joining in Chicago on August 31st and September 1st and Deftones joining in Toronto on September 3rd and 5th. System Of A Down performed the first solo concert in Golden Gate Park after dark on August 17th, which sold out with 50,186 fans in attendance, grossing $9.6 million.

Kendrick Lamar and SZA are teaming up for the "Grand National Tour," which includes stops at 19 stadiums across North America with 22-shows. Dates include: Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field May 5th and Hersheypark Stadium June 16th. Lamar had a massive summer with his hit "Not Like Us," and the rapper is also scheduled to perform at this year's Super Bowl Halftime Show in February. SZA had numerous festival appearances this year, including at Lollapalooza and Osheaga Festival. Electro pioneers Kraftwerk are setting out to tour North America next spring in commemoration of their breakthrough allbum Autobahn and their first United States tour, which took place in 1975. The upcoming "Multimedia" trek begins in Philadelphia at Franklin Music Hall on March 6th and visits Pittsburgh's Stage AE on March 7th and Washington DC's Anthem on March 16th. The group celebrated 50 years of Autobahn earlier this year with a nine-night concert series at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Following the release of a new album, playing a 10-date limited engagement in Las Vegas and performing at the CMA Awards, Keith Urban is ready to take his show on the road in 2025. The country singer unveiled dates for his "High And Alive World Tour," a 28-date trek featuring Chase Matthew, Alana Springsteen and Karley Scott Collins as supporting acts. "Playing live is what I love to do," Urban stated. "Looking out from a stage and seeing people singing, forgetting about all the stress in their lives, cutting loose, and feeling alive — that's what it's about for me." The New Zealand-born four-time Grammy Award winner visits Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, MD on June 19th and Giant Center in Hershey on October 2nd.

Pearl Jam will play five sets of doubles in the U.S. as the band's "Dark Matter Tour" extends in 2025. The rock legends will play Hollywood, Florida; Atlanta; Nashville; Raleigh and Pittsburgh (May 16 & 18). Support will be announced soon. Highlights from 2024 "Dark Matter" dates include a pair of sellouts at Boston's Fenway Park September 15th and 17th, selling 74,802 tickets, and two sellouts at Wrigley Field in Chicago selling 81,910 tickets.

Dead & Company will return to Las Vegas' Sphere in 2025 to celebrate their 10th anniversary. The 18-show run in March, April and May comes on the heels of Dead & Co.'s 30-show residency at the immersive venue, which grossed $131.4 million. The anniversary shows will feature "updated visuals" and will be the only Sphere performances for Dead & Co. in 2025. The residency runs across six weekends beginning March 20. Shania Twain, citing "incredible fan demand," announced a final "encore" series of summer 2025 tour dates across the U.S., capping off a four-year run of shows that included more than 70 dates across North

continued on next page...

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Nationals continued...

America and Europe, and her Las Vegas residency, "Shania Twain: Come On Over" that accounted for 70 more. She's lined up seven more shows in summer 2025, including July 26 at Hersheypark Stadium. Twain has reported an average attendance of 13,046 per show.

In memoriam: Artists lost in 2024. Toby Keith (Feb 5), Dickey Bettes of Allman Brothers (Apr 18), Jack Russell of Great White (Aug 7), Greg Kihn (Aug 13), Kris Kristofferson (Sept 28), Phil Lesh of Grateful Dead (Oct 25), Quincy Jones (Nov 4), Slim Dunlap of The Replacements (Dec. 18).

JANUARY SHOWS: Wrathchild America - Hagerstown Maryland Theatre Jan 11. Hexbelt - Harrisburg HMAC Jan 11. Steel - Freeland MD Bourbon Tavern Jan 11. Junk Punk - Winchester WV Grannys Jan 18. Junk Punk - Martinsburg WV Jan Tilty McFlippers Jan 24. Four Horseman - Harrisburg XL Live Jan 24. MangoDog - Philadelphia Milkboy Jan 25. Steel - Hagerstown MD Fireside Jan 25. Mannequin Pussy / Militarie Gun - Baltimore Soundstage Jan 31.

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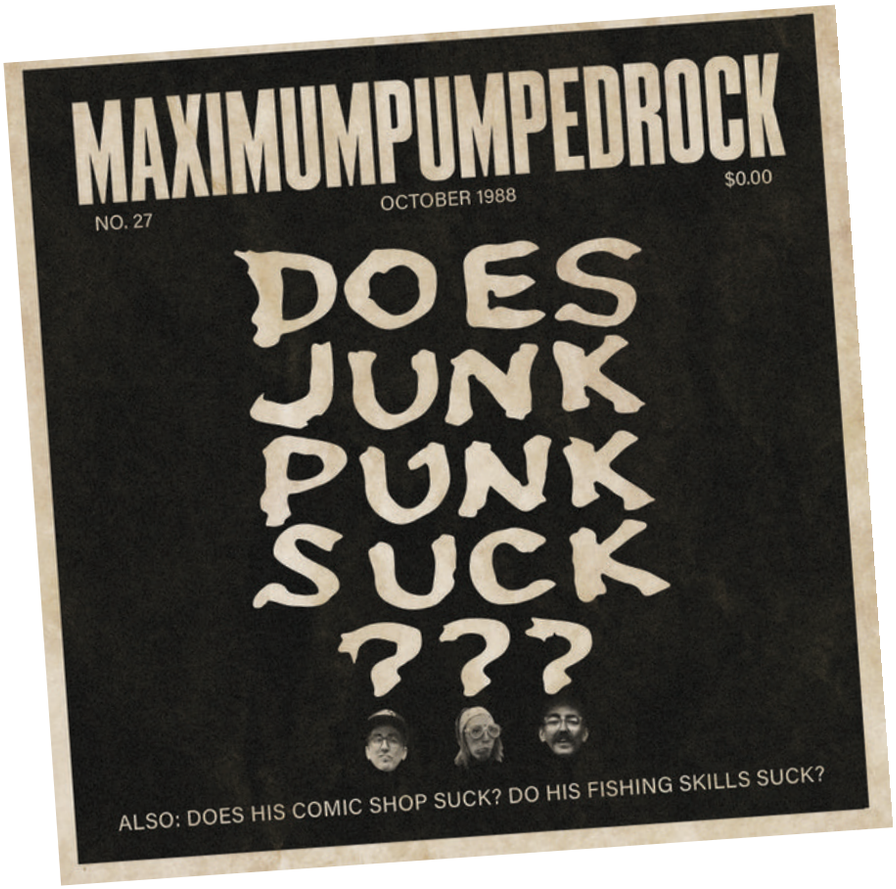
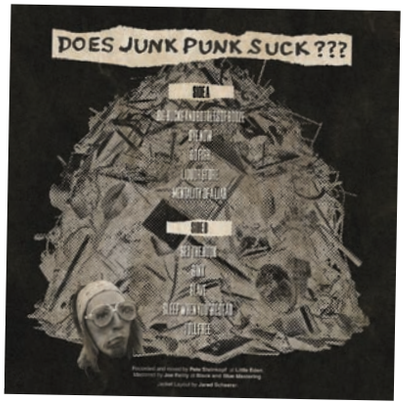


Is Punk dead? Leave it to Shane Huckle aka Junk Punk to keep it very much alive. Huckle, resides in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania and has been part of the PA/MD/WV/VA music scene for over 20 years and with his band iDEFEATi the past 5 years. His current solo project titled 'Junk Punk' has been gaining steam the past year and earning recognition from the likes of fellow punks; Joe Jack Talcum of The Dead Milkmen and Pete Steinkopf of Bouncing Souls. And, this past August, Huckle returned to Little Eden Studios in Asbury Park, NJ to record his Junk Punk. The recording studio is famous for being owned by Steinkopf of legendary punk band, Bouncing Souls, who have been on the scene since 1989. As a writer, I was fortunate to be asked to follow Huckle to watch him record several songs. We arrive at the Jersey Shore the evening before recording and proceed to take on the town, until the bars close. Huckle, is up bright early cracking a beer and ready to tackle recording his solo songs for the first time. At the studio, we are greeted by guitarist Pete of Bouncing Souls with Huckle's intent

to record possibly three songs - which becomes an afternoon of ten songs. Junk Punk is now alive, in his element and churning songs like a machine, with no regards to the previous late night or early morning. Pete and myself sit behind the recording console in one room while Huckle plays in the adjoining room - and we're both pleasantly floored hearing the unknown songs and sharing words of affirmation. The song topics vary from Huckle's passions in life, whether it be hunting, fishing or rock 'n' roll. His growling punk voice is a bit reminiscent of Rancid's Lars Fredericksen but it's truly his own. The astounding recording session is followed with Shane, Pete and myself sharing smiles and lunch and talking music at Asbury Park's famous Frank's Deli.



Junk Punk in the studio recording with engineer Pete Steinkopf

His band, iDEFEATi, continues to play select shows but Huckle has realized he can devote more time and effort if he just does it himself thus Junk Punk. He owns a comic book store in Waynesboro (Surfin Cow Comics) where he buys/sells vintage comic books and has used it to this point as an avenue to create revenue to pursue his music. He is also an avid brown trout fisherman and hunter and has released music videos for songs "Go Fish" and "Big Bucks & Bottles of Booze." Junk Punk will soon release his third music video for the song "By Now" and will deliver his debut album "Maximum Pumped Rock" at the end of March. For the album art, Junk Punk has replicated the iconic cover of Maximum Rocknroll, which

Writer Eric Hoffman, Junk Punk, Pete Steinkopf

is considered to be one of the most important zines in punk for over three decades. Huckle dreams of creating an East Coast Fishing Tour combining concert dates with fishing destinations. In the past year his shows include: Stamm's in Carlisle, Skid Row in York, O.B. Lab in Harrisburg, Jen Jen's in East Berlin, Sketchy Shed in Frederick MD, Bad Habits in Martinsburg WV, Eagles Club in Frederick MD, Blue Fox Billiards in Winchester VA, Milkhouse Brewery in Frederick MD, The Rooster in Gastonia NC, The Crown in Baltimore MD and Hub City Vinyl in Hagerstown MD. He is actively looking to book as much as possible thru his agent: Getoffmylawnpromotions@gmail.com. Junk Punk is now available on all music streaming platforms including iTunes, Spotify, Apple Music and YouTube Music.

JUNK PUNK upcoming dates for 2025:
Grannys Place in Winchester VA (Jan 18)
Tilty McFlipperz in Martinsburg WV (Jan 24)
Punk in the Panhandle in Martinsburg WV (Apr 12)
Skid Row Garage in York (Apr 25)
JB Lovedrafts in Harrisburg (Apr 26)
4 nights in Boston (May 7-10)
4 nights in North Carolina (July 17-20)

RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

I've sat here for over a half hour trying to figure out where to start my article this month, and it's admittedly been an emotional process. I'll start with this: It's damn good to be back. As most of you know, Wendy & I suffered a catastrophic house fire on October 8th. Our home was destroyed, the entirety of contents within our home were destroyed, my truck was destroyed, and most painfully: we lost our boys Guinness and Porter. The amount of immediate outpouring of support from so many communities, and especially our local music community, has been so incredibly helpful. Almost three months later, I still have trouble putting in to words all of the emotions we have felt through this experience. Several benefits were held at Shermans Creek Inn, Live Underground, HMAC and Lovedraft's Brewing, as well as a GoFundMe. I can tell you that all of the money raised for us through these has been extremely helpful in us getting back on our feet and reaching at least some level of "normal". As important as the funds raised, the emotional support that we received from everyone at these events was worth it's weight in gold. We're currently living in a rental while going through the insurance process and hope to soon start the process of looking for our new home. Our insurance company has been incredible, which I admittedly didn't necessarily expect given all the horror stories we hear; but it's such a long and emotional process going through all of it and we can't wait for it to be over. So…with all that said, I was able to start re-building my camera gear collection and getting back out to cover some shows over the last few weeks, so let's get to it.

Scott Marshall & Greg Platzer

Our first trip back out was actually a stop on our way home from a wedding (Congrats Patricia & David!) at Blue Sky Tavern. Greg Platzer had let me know that he would be playing that night with friends of his, Scott Marshall & Highway Souls out of Allentown. Scott and the guys had a bluesy sort of southern rock sort of feel to them which Greg fit in with perfectly. Cranking out songs like Take A Load Off, Can't Always Get What You Want, East Bound & Down, as well as a few originals; it definitely made a great way to get back in to covering our local scene.

The following weekend, we made a quick trip down to Buddy Boy Winery below Duncannon to see my pal Dave Gates play a set. This was our first time to the winery and we had a great time with some good food, good wine, and some tunes like Riders On The Storm, Second Chance, Everything's Gonna Be All Right (definitely a theme here), as well as one of Dave's originals called Hippie Girl.

Dave Gates

A few days later Wendy & I had a date night with Troy & Christina at Shermans Creek Inn, as well as some great Christmas music from the Lydia Zavalia Trio. Nothing beats time spent with good friends enjoying tasty food and beverages, combined with good music. Lydia's got a smooth and sultry voice, entertaining the crowd with songs like Happy, X's & O's, as well as a bunch of great Christmas tunes like I'll Be Home For Christmas. Keep your eyes open for some exciting news coming in the near future about Lydia Zavalia and Shermans Creek, they've got some great things coming!

Lydia Zavala Trio

Roy Lee

My next trip out was a solo trip to Lovedraft's Brewing in Mechanicsburg for a 717 Entertainment sponsored by iRockRadio.me that packed some serious power. Four Thirty Four, a Central Virginia based hard rock group, kicked off the night with a cool vibe and all original tunes. Hostile Within followed them; they're a Virginia and North Carolina based metal and hard rock band that played a really powerful and energetic set. Ruiness took the stage third; they also played at the benefit at Lovedrafts which was my first time seeing them. All I can say about this group is… Holy Shit these folks rock! They've only been together for about a year, but they crushed their set of original tunes and even tossed in a great cover of a Halestorm tune. If you don't know them, you need to! Next up was a band I've been following for a little while now but haven't had the opportunity to see until now. I found them through the lead singer's husband's band (Carbonstone). Anoxia is a post industrial hard rock band based out of Maryland led by Chrystal James. Chrystal and her Guardians are a true force on stage with a stage presence that does not disappoint. Next up was a band I've followed for a little bit through social media and I'd seen back in June at the iRockRadio Birthday bash: Sick Century did an acoustic set at that time and

Anoxia

Ruiness

The Starving Musicians

while I loved it, it definitely left me wanting to see them on stage at "full power". I have to say, it was totally worth the wait! These guys rocked the crowd with songs like Winter Rain and had the whole crowd singing and dancing along for their entire set. Headlining the evening was a band that I think I can safely say is one of Nick Myers' favorites, and I can see why: Eva Under Fire. These folks just radiate power and energy. Incredible music highlighting powerful vocals make them an absolute Must See!

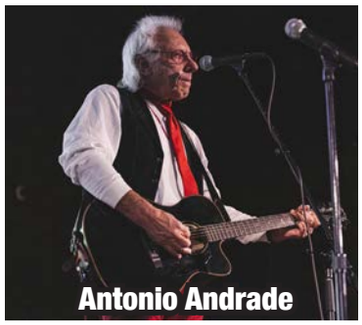
Our next trip out was one that I think we were both looking forward to just as much. The holidays have been admittedly tough for us this year, but the annual Joy To The Burg event at The Englewood is just an incredible event with great music raising money for the unhoused. You can't help but leave there feeling better about everything and anything. Holly Serio kicked off the music for the day (accompanied on a few songs by CPMHOF's Branden Valentine on percussion) with a few Christmas originals and reworked covers including a great version of Santa Baby. Next up was a new group called Gr8 EFX that brought out a really cool funky sort of hip-hop tune called "Gathering" which we really enjoyed. My friend Antonio Andrade brought some friends out this year playing tunes like Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas, Silver Bells, and more. Next up, the No Last Call street band (think marching band with a cool twist) came out through the crowd and played a number of great Christmas songs. The Starving Musicians followed up by amping up the energy with some great rock versions of Let It Snow, Sleigh Ride, Oh Holy Night and a bunch more. Headlining this evening was Groove Rebels bringing their good old fashioned rock style to songs like It's Christmas, Santa Bring Me A Boy, Christmas Party and many more. I suppose you could say they absolutely "sleighed" their set (insert mandatory dad joke groan LOL). Joy To The Burg was yet again, just a fantastic event. They still have albums (this year's is a 2-cd set!) available which you can get through their facebook page @joytotheburg and their website JoyToTheBurg.com

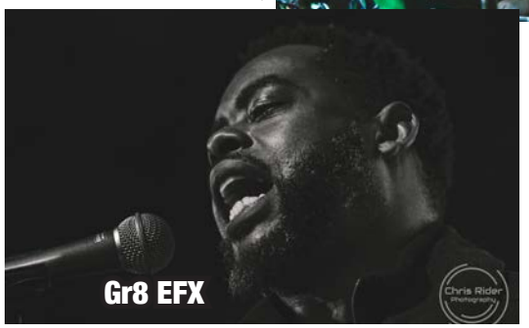
My last trip out for the month was back to Shermans Creek. I'd gotten a phone call from Troy that he had this young musician coming in to do an acoustic set in the bar area that I just "had to hear". Troy knows me pretty well so I found this to be an offer too hard to pass up…and man, I'm glad I went! Jake Owen is a 16yo musician out of Etters and relatively new to playing out for people, but it sure didn't show this evening. Banging out tunes (mostly, but not all, country) like Something In The Orange, an AMAZING version of Cold (and I have to say…holy crap, the amount of SOUL this boy brought out of this song!), Creep and more. He sings with a voice full of soul and grit that belies his age. Headlining the evening was a once-local country performer visiting from Nashville, Roy Lee. Roy brought out songs like Why We Drink, Dust On The Bottle, Watermelon Crawl and a bunch more. At one point he even brought Jake up on stage to sing Simple Man with the band, again just blowing away everyone in the crowd.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. I want to once again thank all the bands, venues, and everyone else involved in our incredible local music scene for everything they do. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see; make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did. Happy New Year!

Eva Under Fire

Four Thirty Four


Antonio Andrade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THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Welcome to 2025…For some people, New Year's Day is just another day, no different than any other. Others consider it an opportunity to reboot, re-center, set goals and make resolutions to accomplish as we embark on this next 365-day cycle. If you're of the latter group, here's hoping you achieve what you set out to accomplish in 2025. And as always, we wish all of our PA Musician readers a happy, productive, prosperous and safe New Year!

The weekend before Thanksgiving brought another enjoyable edition of the "Patched Together: A Day of Music to Benefit the Healing Patch" event, which took place in the upstairs hall of Altoona's Bavarian Aid Society. Five bands and performers donated their talents to help out the Healing Patch Children's Grief Program. Following this year's theme of "The Hunt for Healing," the event also saw a basket raffle and other giveaways, a kids' drum circle facilitated by Jim Donovan of the Sun King Warriors, food and refreshments and more. After the day's introduction and Rebecca Culp's singing of the National Anthem, The Jaded Lips kicked off the day's music. Singer and guitarist Mike Wertz, bassist and singer Hunter Karns and drummer David Applas set the day's tone with their vibrant set mixing catchy original numbers and their versions of classic rock, funk, soul and blues favorites. They opened with their newest single, "Loose Change," and did other newer songs as well as numbers from their debut CD "Lip Service." The Lips also generated dance floor activity with their takes on Peter Gabriel's "Sledgehammer," Prince's "Kiss," Aerosmith's "Walk This Way," the Black Crowes' "Hard to Handle" and their closing Red Hot Chili Peppers cover double-shot of "Love Rollercoaster" and "Higher Ground." Next was the father and daughter duo of John and Kiara Smith; John strummed acoustic guitar while Kiara demonstrated her strong and soaring voice on a number of rock and pop favorites plus several of her original songs. Kiara showed her songcrafting ability with catchy original numbers such as "Way Back Home," "No Regrets," "Wake Up Now" and more. She also delivered a fresh-sounding variation on Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams," and did numbers from Linda Ronstadt, Alannah Myles, Joni Mitchell, Blind Melon and others. Half Tempted reliably rocked the house with their classic rock mix; singer and guitarist Ron Dalansky, guitarist and singer Jim Mincin, bassist Todd Batzel and drummer Dan McConnell confidently fired off numbers from Thin Lizzy, Tom Petty, Jimi Hendrix, Kiss, Wild Cherry, Judas Priest, Free and many more. Greg Burley continued with his brand of acoustic outlaw folk and country numbers. Greg kept the music constant as he strummed and sang a variety of numbers from such names as Blackberry Smoke, 49 Winchester, Chris Stapleton, Neil Young, Zach Bryan and the Red Clay Strays; he closed his set with his distinctive take on Fleetwood Mac's "The Chain." Finishing the live band portion of the event was the Sun King Warriors, fresh off releasing their long-awaited third album, "Like A Light." The group led off with their popular update of The Record Company's "Off The Ground" (which opens the new album), and proceeded to trigger dancing and grooving with their mix of original songs and select covers. Group ringleader, singer and guitarist Jim Donovan, lead guitarist Kevin McDonald, bassist Kent Tonkin, multi-instrumentalist Dan Murphy, hand percussionist Bryan Fazio and drummer Joe Marini played another song off the new album, "Right Into Your Love," and did established original song favorites such as "Oolalala" and "The Last Dance." Also performed were numbers from the Allman Brothers, David Essex's "Rock On" and the Kent-fronted version of Golden Earring's "Radar Love." This all set up for the exciting homestretch, when their original song "We Have Arrived" transitioned into their "two tons of drums" segment, where Jim, Joe and Bryan all pushed each other to the limits on hard-drumming energy, to the ecstasy of all watching. An extended rendition of that famous song from Jim's Rusted Root

continued on next page...

Kiara & John Smith
The Kiara Smith Band

Bryan Fazio of
The Sun King Warriors

Kent Tonkin & Dan Murphuy The Sun King Warriors

Jim Donovan of
The Sun King Warriors

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past, "Send Me On My Way," triggered a substantial groove-fest on the dance floor, followed by the explosive "You Are My Everything" and the funky finisher edition of Sly & the Family Stone's "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" to close out the event. Patched Together again saw a large turnout, and raised much money and awareness for the Healing Patch.

The fourth annual "Toys For Tots Concert and Toy Drive" event happened last month at a new location this year, the Hastings Memorial Building in Hastings. Four bands donated their talents this day to raise toys and monetary donations for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program, helping out area families during the holiday season. PA Musician delivery duties prevented me from arriving in time to see the opening set by Abstentious, but eyewitnesses told me the group's performance was strong. I arrived during the second group, Electric Swamp, who sounded strong on their set of hard-jamming rock. They did a number of original songs during portion of their set I witnessed, as well as a version of Alice In Chains' "Man in the Box." The Lee Miller Experience followed with their celebration of rock and country favorites. Slinging guitar, namesake Lee sounded great on the vocal end; flanked by lead guitarist Bob Gray, bassist Josh Yahner and drummer Mike Davis. Lee led the group on renditions of numbers from Lynyrd Skynyrd, Charlie Daniels, James Gang, CCR, Eddie Rabbitt, Rolling Stones, Jimmy Eat World and more. Lee's support cast remained on the stage to finish out the night as the backbone of Deny Your Negan, a morphing together of their other two groups, the original project Negan and their Alice In Chains tribute Deny Your Maker. Mike Davis moved to lead vocals with Damian Falatek taking over behind the drums, and Rich Johnson joined them on additional guitar. Deny Your Negan did several Alice In Chains numbers such as "Dam That River" and "Rooster," as well as numbers from Live, Weezer, Danzig, Iron Maiden's "Two Minutes to Midnight" and more. A dad got to jam with his kids during this set, as Mike Davis' son Graham contributed guitar on the Deftones' "My Own Summer (Shove It)" and Alice In Chains' "It Ain't Like That," while his daughter Tigerlily helped sing lead vocals on 311's "Down." This year's Toys For Tots benefit raised 445 toys and a large amount of donations to help out Toys For Tots.

Bob Gray of
The Lee Miller Experience

Keeping with German holiday season tradition and mythology, the Christmas demon Krampus and Saint Nicholas paid their annual visit to Altoona's Unter Uns Musical & Entertainment Society for "Krampusnacht." Since there were apparently a lot of naughty children in the house this year, two Krampuses – the "Krampi" – showed up to dish out the punishment! The night's musical entertainers, Fortune & Glory, appeased the burly demons with a rendition of Ghost's "Square Hammer," and both Krampi and St. Nicholas joined the group on-stage. Pleased with these developments, the Krampi left all of us off easy and didn't give any of us the feared beatdown with tree branches! Fortune & Glory – singer Dana Martino, guitarist and singer Art Martino, bassist Nicholas Martino, keyboardist Adam Baranik and drummer Bryan Starr – kept the demons away for the rest of the night and drew some dancers up to the floor with their fun variety of rock and pop favorites. They broke out a number of tunes not often covered on area stages; such as Elton John's "I'm Still Standing," Better Than Ezra's "Good," Janis Joplin's "Move Over," Scandal's "Goodbye to You," Great White's "Call It Rock and Roll" and more.

Jordan McCaulley or
Sweet Desire

I caught up with Altoona-based Christmas season performers Jack Frost and the Frostbites last month as they were kicking off their annual "Flight of the Frostbites," their seasonal journey around the Altoona area playing Christmas season favorites "from the back of a truck." Starting from the Barrel and Bean Café near Penn State Altoona, the assembled Frostbite cast braved low 20-degree temperatures as they performed upbeat renditions of "Jingle Bells" ("Jazzed Up Jingle Bells" from their just-released debut album "From the Back of a Truck"), "We Wish You A Merry Christmas" and "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree." With the truck readied and all systems go, the group then rode off to bring Christmas music and cheer to neighborhoods throughout the area. (See the review of "From the Back of a Truck" elsewhere in this issue.)

Comedian Don Jamieson (of VH1's "That Metal Show" fame) returned to McGarvey's last month to host and emcee two consecutive weekend nights of live music. I caught the second of the nights as Don emceed "Metal Night" with four of this area's hardest-hitting groups. State College's Goatsmoker was just finishing their set as I arrived; they reportedly scorched the walls with numbers from Primus, Helmet, Melvins, Orange Goblin, Mastodon and more. Don Jamieson then did his first of two rock music-rooted comedy routines, with lots of laugh-inducing digs at such musical celebrities as Ozzy Osbourne, Kiss, Faster Pussycat, Twisted Sister and others. This led to Don introducing the next group, A Starlite Gray. This was the first I got to see of this group's reboot; guitarist Joe Neary, drummer Andy Melusky and guitarist Breydon Bremer remain; joined by new lead singer Greg Griffin and new bassist Isaac Sell. A Starlite Gray unleashed a number of new power metal-flavored original songs, displaying intense rhythms, scathing vocals and volatile song arrangements. I didn't catch much of the song titles except the last assault, called "Falling Down." Don Jamieson then returned for his second comedy routine, this time generating laughter with his observations on Guns N'Roses, Gwar, Celine Dion, Metallica and more. He then introduced Altoona-based scorched-earth metal purveyors SamarA. Backed with a video screen displaying a myriad of apocalyptic imagery, SamarA – lead snarler Travis, guitarists Rug and Ryan, bassist Brian and drummer Shaun – brought the fury with a set of intense, scathing metal originals; including "A Negative Theory," "Devil's Danse," "Ride My

continued on next page...

Zac of the Zac Grace Band

The Professor continued...

Knife," "Modern Day Curse, "Reclaim," "Hitch Hole," I-Am-I" and more. Deny Your Negan closed out the night with their celebration of Alice In Chains and other 1990s-era heavy rock. Their set featured numbers by Queens of the Stone Age, Soundgarden, Danzig, Audioslave, plus Alice In Chains numbers such as "Dam That River," "Rooster," "It Ain't Like That," "Them Bones" and more. Mashbrotatoe frontman Matt Watson contributed vocals to Deny Your Negan's rendition of Deftones' "My Own Summer (Shove It)."

Don Jamieson

Speaking of Mashbrotatoe, I caught my first look at them – albeit short – during a late-November triple-bill at McGarvey's. Opening the night, Mashbrotatoe is a collaboration of several established musicians from the area punk and metal scene; including guitarist Philly Grooves Wagner, Matt Watson on vocals, Wes Shriner on bass and Jake Hicks on drums. I only got to see the last song of their opening set, but Mashbrotatoe sounded strong on their rendition of Helmet's "Unsung." Altoona ska rockers Tom Nevers Field followed; four of their ten members were missing this night, but the six that did perform sounded strong on their set of original ska and punk numbers. Among those numbers was the group's newest single, "Not My Enemy," along with "Impossible," "Hey Mr. Newsman," "Punk's Gotta Do" and others. This night also celebrated the release of the BSXpress' second CD, "Round the Bend." The BSXpress – singer and guitarist Brian Walker, bassist Nick Bayer and drummer Dean Kepner – slammed out numbers from the new CD; including "Fascist Theology," "Your Life," "Street Kombat," "What Do You Do," "Gas Station Chicken Salad," the 48-second "Lobbyist," "Lie to Me," "Hometown Curse," "You Stupid A**hole" and "Soulcrusher." The BSXpress delivered their punk no-nonsense, short and to the point.

Also in late November, I checked in with the Bomb Cyclones at McGarvey's. Lead singer Mellissa Vella was under the weather and couldn't perform this night; but the remaining cast – bassist and singer Doug Cruse, guitarist and singer Kenny Karlheim, lead guitarist Rich Johnson and drummer Paul Caracciolo did good work on their selection of classic rock numbers. Doug and Kenny shared singing duties as the group did numbers from Metallica, ZZ Top, the Allman Brothers, the Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Stone Temple Pilots and more. The Bomb Cyclones also broke out a version of the Black Pumas' "Colors," and toward night's end, guest Rick Ramsey sang lead vocals on the Toadies' "Possum Kingdom" and Lenny Kravitz's "Fly Away."

Ken Karlheim of The Bomb Cyclones

Funky Claud's (formerly Club Kryptonite) hosted the double-bill of Altoona's Sweet Desire and Nashville's The Garden Of Eden last month. I arrived in time to witness the last few songs from The Garden Of Eden. From Nashville, this group sounded amazing as they performed strong renditions of Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" and the Allman Brothers' "Whipping Post." Singer and guitarist Scotty Chapman displayed a powerful and versatile voice, and the remainder of the group were impressive as well. Sweet Desire followed with their own powerful set, as they again explored hard-rocking frontiers rooted in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Singer Jordan McCaulley, guitarist Kenton Lewis, bassist Josh Simpson and drummer Trey Boore boldly engaged in improvisational, exploratory jams as they maneuvered their way through the classic rock and blues cosmos with such numbers as Rufus Thomas/Aerosmith's "Walkin' the Dog," Buddy Miles' "Them Changes," the Animals' "House of the Rising Sun," Steve Miller Band's "Space Cowboy," Buffalo Springfield's "Mr. Soul," the Guess Who's "Heartbroken Bopper" and more. Sweet Desire's jams often went for broke and delivered intensity, and Trey uncorked an intense drum solo display late in the set. I have learned over time that every Sweet Desire show is its own journey, and the fun of seeing what these musicians will explore next is what entices me to want to see more.

I caught a bunch of performances at Altoona's 4D's Lounge in recent weeks, including the Zac Grace Band prior to Thanksgiving weekend. I arrived in time to witness the last two sets, and Zac and his band had the country party going strong. The dance floor was consistently packed as the group got rowdy with numbers from Alan Jackson, Hank Williams, Kip Moore, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Luke Combs and many more. Some highlights included the group honoring a request for Garth Brooks' "Friends in Low Places," the merging of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama" with Kid Rock's "All Summer Long," and the nonstop four-song stretch of Georgia Satellites' "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" into Billy Ray Cyrus' "Achy Breaky Heart" into Toby Keith's "A Little Less Talk and a Lot More Action" into Don Williams' "Tulsa Time." Zac also mixed in two of his own songs – "PPL I Drink With" and the night-ending "This Is the Time." Watch for Zac's return to the 4D's in February.

Shallow 9 fired up the dance party with a huge crowd at the 4D's Lounge during Thanksgiving weekend. This group delivered nonstop music through their three sets; the dance floor became busy from the moment Shallow 9 opened the first set with Amy Winehouse's "Valerie" until their night-ending version of The Darkness' "I Believe in a Thing Called Love." In between, the group brought the classic and modern rock, rap and hip-hop, soul, funk, punk, fast-firing medleys and more. Singers Erika, Ryan and (Mike) Stanley kept the dance floor engaged, and this group never gave anybody a reason to want to sit back down! I'll witness Shallow 9 again triggering the dance party when they provide the music during the Central PA Humane Society's Chili Fest & Wings event on Jan. 25 at Altoona's Bavarian Aid Society Hall.

Mike Wertz of The Jaded Lips

And I ended up seeing both The Jaded Lips and the Giants Of Science at the 4D's – TWICE – during recent weeks. The Jaded Lips performed on both Thanksgiving Eve and Christmas Eve's eve, while the Giants played clean-up on Thanksgiving weekend and during the weekend preceding Christmas. All were good times!

2024 ended on a sad note in the area music community with the passing of Tim Glass late last month at age 72. Known to many by the nickname "Head," Tim was an avid music fan, and was a big part of the Mysterytrain community and extended family. He

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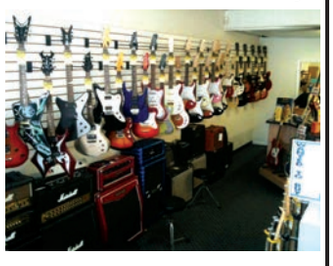

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often helped load and unload equipment, plus frequently tended the gate at the group's local festivals. Tim was also at Coast Guard veteran, and had worked as a therapeutic activity director for the Ebensburg State School for 35 years. He'll be remembered for his smile and upbeat persona. Mysterytrain is setting up a full weekend memorial show locally for "Head" in mid-June.

News and notes…After 23 years in operation, a popular Pittsburgh live music venue, the Hard Rock Café in Station Square, will close with February 13 being its final day of operation. According to an internal memo from Hard Rock International, the reason for the closing is that the lease for the venue expires in February…A new live music venue is taking over the former location of The Saloon in State College; Manny's Live Performance Space began operations on New Year's Eve. Operated by Corey Elbin of Gorinto Productions, the venue will feature a variety of underground, diverse and international artists…Popular regional 1990s rockers Heaven Tonite are staging a 30-year reunion in February; that two-night reunion will happen Feb. 21 at Charlie's Pub in Dubois and Feb. 22 at Funky Claud's in Altoona…After ten years, popular area performers Stormy have decided to step aside…State College-based Americana and folk-rock group Raven and the Wren has ended its run, and singer Natty Lou Race announced that she will be introducing a new project shortly…Clearfield County-based heavy rock band Hell Bent has ended their 8-year run on area stages, citing family reasons; three of the group's members have moved on to form a new rock and metal band called Nero, which will debut on stages soon…Jim Bagrosky and Andy Krager have formed a new heavy-rocking studio project called Man In Reverse, and are releasing new songs in 2025…The Jaded Lips recently issued their new song, "Loose Change," as well as an accompanying video. The video was directed and filmed by Matt Otis, and features a cameo appearance by musician Kent Tonkin in the role of Rich Uncle Pennybags (of Monopoly fame)…Johnstown's Still Rockin' is changing their handle to Sonic Boom…The Backyard Rockers officially announced the addition of their newest member – longtime Altoona area musician Peter Wolf, who will play acoustic, electric guitar, harmonica and sing backing vocals…And speedy get well wishes go out to Bob Watters, the drummer for Felix & the Hurricanes, as he recuperates from recent triple-bypass surgery.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL and LIVE MUSIC IN 2024!

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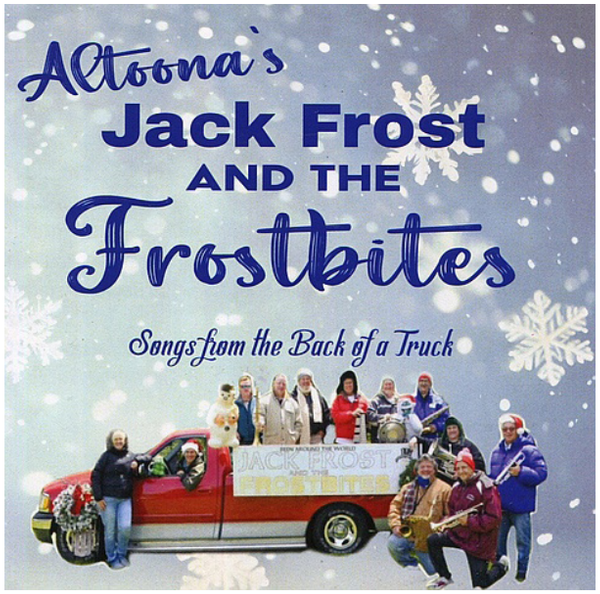
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price



JACK FROST AND THE FROSTBITES – "SONGS FROM THE BACK OF A TRUCK" (no label) It all began in 1981, when several teenaged "band guys" from Altoona Area High School first climbed into the back of a beer truck with their instruments and rode around town, performing Christmas season song favorites "from the back of a truck" to bring cheer to anybody they happened upon. They dubbed their group Jack Frost and the Frostbites, based on a children's book. They have reconvened in the back of a now-decorated truck to serenade neighborhoods during subsequent holiday seasons ever since. For this past holiday season, their 43rd, the current Frostbites lineup – tenor sax player and bandleader (a.k.a. "Jack Frost") Scott Lovell, Rich Stroud on tenor sax, trumpeters Jeff Livermore and Steve Saive, drummer Rick Guyer, percussionist Brian Somers, Scott Durbin on bells, Bill Wolf on trombone, Scott Woomer on baritone, Fran Hite on keys and singer Dawn Igoe – have released their eight-song debut album, "Songs from the Back of a Truck." Recorded by Dave Villani in the Sanctuary (a former church space) of ArtsAltoona, the album was recorded mostly live and captures the Frostbites' upbeat blend of musical flavors spanning jazz and big band, rock'n'roll, country, international touches and even an original polka. Listeners will hear solid musicianship, joy and enthusiasm as the group performs their horn-driven variations on time-tested Christmas season favorites and one original holiday number. "Jazzed Up Jingle Bells" welcomes listeners with a bright, swing-edged spin on the perennial yuletide favorite, followed by a driving rendition of "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." The Frostbites show their versatility with "Rudolph Samba," with Fran's keys leading into a Brazilian-flavored version of the popular ode to Santa's bright-nosed Christmas Eve hero. While most of the album is instrumental, Dawn and Fran blend their voices on a duet rendition of the Elvis Presley-popularized "Blue Christmas." A slight New Orleans vibe flavors the Frostbites' take on Brenda Lee's 1958 hit "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," before the group celebrates Jose Feliciano's contribution to the Christmas song catalog, "Feliz Navidad." Peppered with shouts of "Jack Frost!" is the group's original creation, the swaggering "Jack Frost Christmas Polka." The album finishes with the group's delightful mash-up, the "Grandma Got Run Over by Frosty Medley," with Rick's drums and "Thumpety thump thump" gang shouts providing the playful transition between songs. This is a fun album, Jack Frost and the Frostbites' joy and energy radiate throughout the set; you can tell these musicians were having a good time recording it. The recording space of the ArtsAltoona Sanctuary gives these renditions depth and fullness, allowing Rick's drums and the horns to boldly shine. "Songs from the Back of a Truck" provides a boisterous and fun holiday season listening experience, whether you listen to it 'from the back of a truck' or while putting up decorations and trimming the tree next holiday season. (The album can be accessed through online digital outlets, or the CD can be purchased through the group's website, www.altoonajackfrost.com.)

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